

THE ADVOCATE

Why I Come To Work

by Kimberly Higgs, Social Worker

I'm **Kimberly Higgs**. As a Social Worker for DYRS, I am responsible for handling multiple cases; attending court hearings; and visiting youth at their homes, schools, and in their communities. I have a Masters degree in Social Work from Howard University and I previously worked for the **Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)** as a Neglect and Abuse Intake Investigator. My childhood experiences led me to do the work I do today. When I graduated from high school, a close childhood friend, who was sent to the Oak Hill Youth Center, asked me to promise to choose a career that would help advocate for adolescents in the juvenile justice system. Fortunately, I fulfilled that promise and am helping young men and women get their lives back on track everyday. I like working with adjudicated youth and seeing them achieve their goals. I recently attended the Youth Recognition Ceremony and the Children's Defense Fund's gala and it helped to emphasize the reasons why I come to work everyday. I enjoy seeing our youth continuing to work on their journey to success. This makes me proud of their accomplishments and it contributes to fulfilling the promise I made to my childhood friend of making a difference in their lives.



Oak Hill Tigers vs. Cesar Chavez Eagles

by Eric Davis, Acting Youth Treatment Unit Manager/Head Coach

With eight minutes left towards the end of the second quarter, the **Oak Hill Tigers** broke through and intercepted the ball for two touchdowns against the **Cesar Chavez Eagles**. With a 46-0 win against visiting **Cesar Chavez Public Charter School's Parkside Campus**, the team is looking forward to playing another exciting game against the Eagles this season. Now that we have won 14-0 against visiting **Durham North Carolina Raiders Prep**, I am excited to see the youths' continued sportsmanship and teamwork even with losses to **Roosevelt Varsity** and **Coolidge Varsity**. My aim is to take the team all the way to the Turkey Bowl with successive wins in their upcoming games.

CYITC Youth Development Training

by Silvia Moody, Education and Training Coordinator

For several weeks, DYRS staff, ranging from Youth Development Specialists and Supervisors to Case Managers, has completed the 30-hour or 15-hour Advancing Youth Development certification courses through **The DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation (CYITC)** – DC Best (Building Exemplary Systems of Training) program. In partnership with CYITC, the **Office of Professional Development (OPD)** continuously provides courses and opportunities for DYRS staff to become certified in Best Youth Development practices and other relevant programs within the juvenile justice field. With the help of OPD and CYITC, youth workers gain high-quality training and knowledge that positively supports them as they support our youth in their growth and development from adolescence into adulthood, and moves DYRS closer to becoming the first juvenile justice agency in the country committed to the principles of Positive Youth Development.



Government of the District of Columbia
Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services